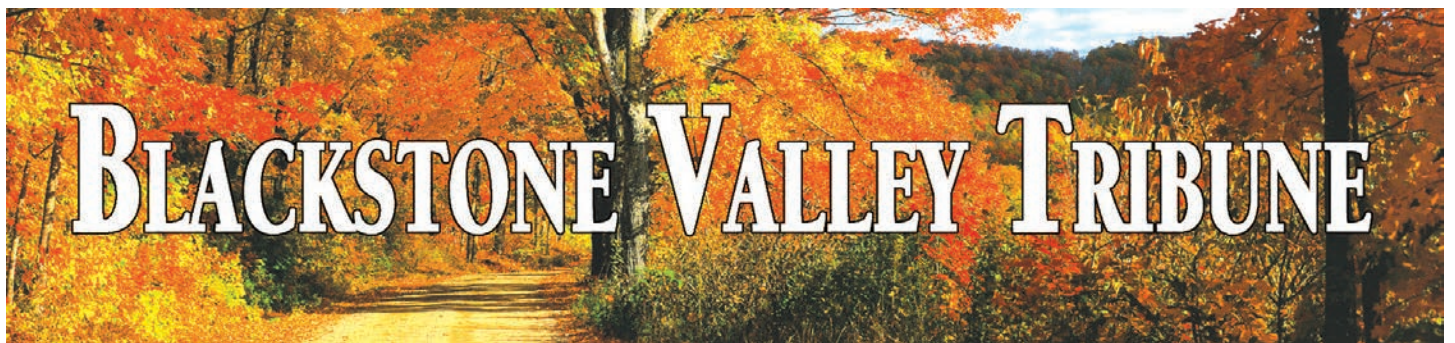


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Friday, November 22, 2024

Northbridge Elementary students celebrate democracy with mock election

NORTHBIDGE — Buzzing with excitement, Northbridge Elementary School transformed into an electoral hub on Monday, Nov. 4, as students from Pre-K through Grade 5 cast their votes in a mock election that celebrated civic engagement in a fun and age-appropriate way. This year's unique ballot invited students to vote on which song their co-principals, Mrs. Lorinda Allen and Mrs. Lauren Dolan, would perform in an upcoming lip-sync battle.

Throughout October, students explored the election process, from the importance of voting to the logistics of casting a ballot. Through a generous grant from the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, the school was able to purchase the Scholastic Magazine's "Road to the White House" resources for each student. These were utilized by the teachers to work through the democratic election process.

On election day, students entered the gym to find their designated "precincts" and were guided by enthusiastic parent and grandparent volunteers acting as poll workers. The volunteers "registered" each student, handed them



their ballot, and directed them to individual voting booths for privacy. Adding to the authenticity, the Town of Northbridge lent the school its historic crank ballot boxes, which were set up in the school gymnasium, festively decorated in red, white, and blue. A highlight for many young voters was turning the crank handle on the old-fashioned ballot boxes, which made the experience all the more memorable. Each student proudly left the gym wearing an "I

Voted Today" sticker.

Fourth grade teacher Jennifer Siemaszko stated, "Here at NES we focused on learning the process and showing the students how important it is to participate. They were able to see the process start to finish and how their vote made a difference in the overall outcome."

A total of 868 votes were cast, with "Life Is a Highway" emerging as the top choice with 244 votes,

closely followed by "Better When I'm Dancing" with 201 votes. The results came to life in a live lip-sync battle on Thursday, Nov. 14 on the NES Stage, where Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Dolan performed the winning songs in front of the entire school community. One of the youngest students, preschooler Jackson Lowe, brought the excitement of our mock election home by telling his grandpa, "When you go to

vote tomorrow, you should choose "Better When I'm Dancing" because that was my vote!"

"This mock election was a fantastic experience that truly connected our school with the community," said fifth grade teacher Mrs. Jaime Gauthier. "It gave our students a real feel for what voting will be like when they're older, making the democratic process engaging and memorable."

"Seeing our first graders connect what they're learning in the classroom with real-life experiences is truly inspiring," said Cherice Lowe, first grade teacher at Northbridge Public Schools. "Many of them shared stories about going to vote with their parents. One student excitedly said, 'I got to go with my mom and she had her own privacy, too!' It's moments like these that show the impact of engaging students in the democratic process from an early age."

Ms. Linda Zywein, a guest from the Town of Northbridge, further enriched the experience by explaining to older students how local elections operate, offering them a firsthand look at the civic processes that shape their town.

The mock election also supported Northbridge Public Schools' Portrait of a Graduate framework, highlighting personal responsibility and community participation. Through this engaging, real-world exercise, students connected their actions to the values of citizenship, teamwork, and informed decision-making.

Small Stones Festival of the Arts runs Jan. 25 – Feb. 2

GRAFTON — Small Stones Festival of the Arts seventh annual fine art and photography juried exhibition is scheduled for Jan. 27 – Feb. 2 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., Grafton. The free exhibit is open to the public.

The Blackstone Valley Art Association and the Worcester County Camera Club have collaborated to create one of the region's largest juried fine art and photography exhibitions. The festival features juror and artist talks and informative seminars of interest to artists.

An esteemed panel of six jurors (three for each category) have selected 144 works to be displayed at the exhibit and included in the hardbound catalog. Cash prizes for each category are awarded: first (\$500); second (\$250); and third (\$100) places. The jurors each select a Juror's Choice. The public votes for a Popular Choice winner for both categories.

The renowned fine art jurors are esteemed art administrator Claudia Fiks, accomplished fine art artist Carol Arnold and well known national author, illustrator and cartoonist Scott Nelson. Fiks, the former founder and director of New England Art Center, currently serves as director of Galatea Fine Art in Boston and the Newton Open Studios. Arnold, a leader of the Putney Painters Group, recent awards include third place in the Plein Air Division at Rocky Mountain High and first place for figure/portrait in the June Plein Air Salon Art Competition. Nelson is the co-founder of newly established Two Bridges Art Academy and taught for many years at Worcester Art Museum.

Photography jurors include image-maker, independent curator and artist consultant Frances Jakubek, Worcester Art Museum's Assistant Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photography Olivia J. Stone and renowned fine art photographer Steven Duede. Jakubek is a co-founder of the Yellow Rose Project, former director of the Bruce Silverstein Gallery and past Associate Curator of the Griffin Museum of Photography. Stone's writing on art has appeared in Big, Red & Shiny, the Boston Art Review, the Rib and other publications. A former board member of the Griffin Museum of Photography, Duede's works are in collections with the Danforth Art Museum (Framingham State University), the Decordova Museum, Boston Properties and Harvard University.

The Festival opens Jan. 25, with exhibit hours noon – 5 p.m. The awards ceremony and reception begin at 2 p.m. Artist talks will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the gallery.

The exhibit continues Sunday, Jan. 26, noon – 4 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28, noon – 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29, noon to 4 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 30, noon – 4 p.m. with extended hours Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1, noon – 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, the last day of the Festival, exhibit hours are noon – 4 p.m. with juror talks held at 2 p.m.

The beautiful hardback exhibit catalog is for sale online and at the festival. All submissions meeting minimum requirements are featured in the Festival's web gallery.

The mission of the Small Stones Festival of the Arts is to elevate the practice and appreciation of fine art and photography in the Blackstone Valley and beyond. The Festival is under the aegis of fiscal sponsor, Grafton Arts, Inc., a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization.

Small Stones Festival of the Arts has received financial support from Gaston Art and Frame, Gaudette Insurance, Homefield Credit Union, New England School of Fine Art, Pepperoni Express, PulteGroup, UniBank and Yesod Foundation. For more information, visit <https://smallstonesfestival.org>.

Practical Nursing Open House at BVT Dec. 2

UPTON — The Moonlight Program in Practical Nursing (Post-Secondary) at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) prepares its adult learners for personal and professional success as practical nurses. If you are interested in a life-changing career in health care, register to attend the Open House on Monday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The evening is an opportunity to tour the practical nursing classrooms at 65 Pleasant Street in Upton. Speak with faculty and staff, observe the state-of-the-art equipment, and participate in a question-and-answer session. Learn more about the part-time, 60-week evening program require-

ments, the admissions process, and how to enroll.

All interested applicants must take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), a requirement for the Practical Nursing program. The program administers the TEAS Entrance Exams to applicants and accepts TEAS results from other testing locations.

"It is a good time to enter the nursing field because there's such a need for skilled nurses," said Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSC, RN-BC, RMA.

The affordable program offers small class sizes and accepts in-district, out-of-district, and out-of-state applicants. For more information about the program and to register

for the Open House, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/pnopenhouse.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

Douglas Historical Society thanks DAR!

DOUGLAS — The Douglas Historical Society was thrilled to gather members of the Captain Job Knapp Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on the front porch of the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum last Monday for an overdue "Thank You" for the grant awarded the Society in 2023.

"The porch repair work was finished last year thanks to the DAR's generous grant of nearly \$10,000 that was matched by another \$10,000 from Unibank," Society president Shirley Moczynski explained. "But it took a while for the weather to cooperate so that we could show off this magnificent double-decked porch with a fresh coat of paint!"

Part of the porch frame was replaced, decking on both floors was removed and replaced and some materials were hard to find. A Historic Preservation Restriction is on the entire building so materials and work cannot change the exterior fabric of the buildings. "We are very pleased with the outcome," Moczynski added. "We



Courtesy

DAR members joined Douglas Historical Society Board members on the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum porch.

expect the repairs and materials used to replace the framing and decking to last many, many years and that the porch is once again safe and architecturally beautiful thanks to the DAR!"

Current Captain Job Knapp Chapter regent Noveline Beltram added,

"The mission of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is Education, Historic Preservation, and Patriotism that was a perfect fit for this project. Only 33 out of 155 applications were chosen in 2023 and it was through the excellent grant writing of

DHS and the partnership with the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Captain Job Knapp Chapter in Douglas, that this project was submitted, and approved. Our congratulations on all of your hard work that will now be enjoyed by all!"

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

The offices of the Blackstone Valley Tribune will be closed Thursday Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

To ensure that our Nov. 29 edition arrives in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the

submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube

at news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the Tribune thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Uxbridge Senior Center

36 South Main St.
508-278-8622
Lisa Bernard - Director
Gail Boutiette - Outreach Coordinator
Donna Oncay - Transportation Coordinator
Omer Boucher - Van Driver
Sally Selvidge - Activities Coordinator
Pat Ordway - Chef
DIRECTOR NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER
I would like to personally thank

all the contributors, donors, and volunteers who helped make the Thanksgiving meal distribution a success. We were able to distribute over 200 meals to our seniors on Monday, November 25th for lunch. This year we collaborated with Kapi's Pub in Uxbridge to cook the luncheon. The Town of Uxbridge is truly blessed to have so many people who care for each other. What a wonderful way for the community to come together for a

great cause. Thank you for allowing the Senior Center to be a part of this endeavor.
Here is a list of our major contributors/donors:
Kapi's Pub, Inc
Table Talk Pies
Hannaford's
Fallon Health
UniBank
The Uxbridge Elderly Connection
Thank you to Fallon Health for the \$1000 grant and the Uxbridge Elderly Connection for the \$1500 contribution that helped curb the cost to the senior center. I also want to acknowledge all our volunteers. Our seniors thank you!

In addition, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection sponsored all our holiday luncheons this year. We wish to thank all who contribute to the Elderly Connection's ongoing efforts this year. Without their continued support, we would not be able to provide the extra activities and expenses that are not in our municipal budget. **THANK YOU!**

Welcome back Sally!
Crafts with Sally will be reinstated this month. Sally will be doing a Grinch and Snowman Craft on

Monday, December 9th at 1:30pm, the cost is \$7.00 per person to cover the supplies. Please sign up early and consider joining us for lunch that day!

Special Town Meeting - Please Note:

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm at the Valley Chapel Church located at 14 Hunter Road.

The winter months are now upon us. Please look after your elderly neighbors, relatives and friends. Please consider calling, visiting or writing to your friends and those in need. A little kindness will go a long way! Remember, people will forget what you say or do but they will always remember how you made them feel. Take the time to make someone feel special!

Lastly, I want to personally wish everyone a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Lisa Bernard
Director

Monday, December 2nd - 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Computer Tutoring with students from BVT. Please call ahead to book an appointment. This will be held on the first Monday of each month. Next date

will be Monday, January 6, 2025.

Monday, December 2nd - 1:00 pm - Uxbridge Senior Center Drama Club Meeting with Cathy Thornton. Does this sound like it would be something fun to do? Reading aloud, discussing, viewing plays could be our focus. Field trips to local community theatres are a possibility. Maybe invite some high school students to join in reading some selections. Call 508-278-8622 if you are interested in joining!

Tuesday, December 3rd 9:00 am - 1:30 pm and Tuesday December 10th 9:00 am - 11:30 am - SHINE Appointments - Pat Nectow, our SHINE Counselor, will be here to help you with your health insurance questions. Please call 508-278-8622 to schedule.

Thursday, December 5th - 10:30 am - Veterans' Services with Carl Bradshaw by appointment only. Call 508-278-8622 to sign up.

Thursday, December 5th - 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm - Low Impact Exercise Class.

Thursdays, December 5th, 12th & 19th - 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - Zumba Classes.

Friday, December 6th -

12:00 pm - Lunch & Learn with Chief Montminy. His guest speaker will be Sheila Kelly, Community Relations Rep for Mass Behavioral Health Helpline will be presenting an overview of their services & programs. Be sure to RSVP for this event.

Monday, December 9th - 1:30 pm - Laundry Bucket Snowman or Grinch Craft with Sally! Class is limited so sign up early. \$7.00 donation per person.

Tuesday, December 10th - 1:00 pm - Uxbridge Library Book Club. They will be discussing "The Secret Book of Flora Lea" by Patti Callahan Henry. You are welcome to join us for lunch on this day, just be sure to call ahead to "book" your! Next book club meeting is on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Tuesday, December 10th - 1:00 pm - Benefit Enrollment Specialist - Tri-Valley, Inc. Call the senior center to book an appointment with Gina. Next date will be January 14, 2025.

Thursday, December 12th - 12:30 pm - Uxbridge High School Chorus presents a Holiday Concert at the senior center. Come for lunch and be entertained by the UHS students. Holiday cookies will be served, compliments of the UHS Culinary Dept.

Friday, December 13th - 12:00pm - Uxbridge Fire Department Quarterly Talk on Winter Safety Tips. Please call ahead to RSVP for this event.

Monday, December 16th - 1:30 pm - "Ask the Attorney" with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appoint-

ment only. Please Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment.

Tuesday, December 17th - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Nancy Favulli, Salmon Health VNA. RSVP to participate and to join us for lunch.

Friday, December 20th - 12:00 pm - Annual Christmas Celebration! Join us for our annual Christmas luncheon sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection Inc. Our entertainment with Tommy Rull is funded by the Uxbridge Cultural Council. Please call ahead to RSVP.

Friday, December 20th - 12 noon - December Birthday Cake Celebration. Come Celebrate all the birthdays this month!

Tuesday, December 24th & Wednesday, December 25th - The Senior Center will be closed in observance of Christmas. We will re-open on Thursday, December 26th.

Friday, December 27th - 12:00 pm - Annual New Years at Noon Celebration with Tim Brook, the Crooner at Large! This is sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection Inc. Call ahead to RSVP.

The senior center will be closed on Tuesday, December 31st, Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in Observance of New Years! We will re-open on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 8:00 am.

Card Game played during lunch on Mondays. Hannaford grocery shopping every Tuesday. Pick up begins at 8:30 AM. Please sign up in advance

Wednesdays - "Canasta" Hand, Knee & Foot Card Game - 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. No Canasta on December 25th & January 1st.

Wednesdays - Play Scrabble! - 1:00 pm - Come by for an afternoon playing Scrabble. Boards are supplied by the senior center. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch! No Scrabble on December 25th & January 1st.

Medical Transportation is accepting appointments. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your rides.

The senior center is in need of the following donations: Lysol wipes, newly packaged napkins, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, tea (regular and caffeine free), ground regular & decaf coffee. We thank you for your support!

Feel free to contact us at 508-278-8622 or visit us on our web page at Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa or like us on our FB page or by googling Uxbridge Senior Center and our new YouTube Channel or even dropping by.

• https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNh_RIq99rucmFH-UO7VFBw
• <https://www.uxbridgetv.org/schedule/192>

REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$659,750, 74 Glenside Dr, Mcguire, Kevin W, and Mcguire, Susan A, to Bertrand, Cody S, and Bertrand, Han.

\$470,000, 148 King St, Partlow, Jessica A, to Dasilva, Uziel G.

\$265,000, 13 Hoyle Cir #13, Lheureux, Marianne R, and Francisco, Patricia S, to Mignanelli, Andrew, and Mignanelli, Barbara.

DOUGLAS

NORTHBRIDGE

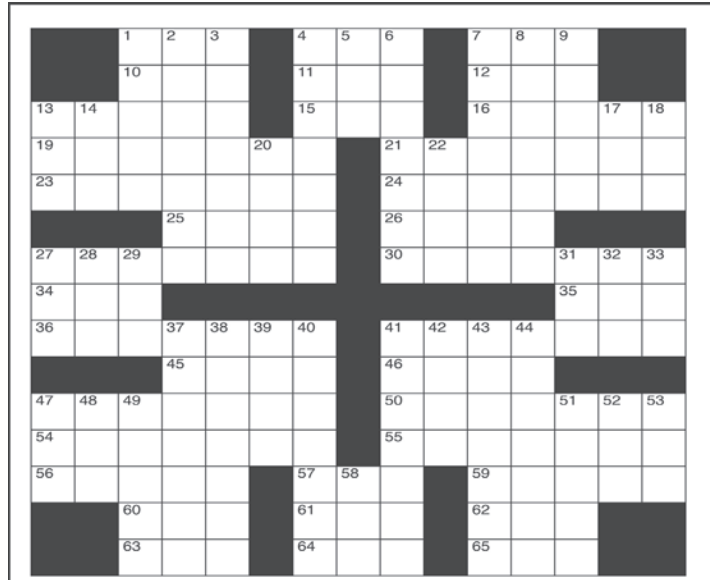
\$565,000, 31 Rumonoski Dr, Hanna, James J, to Armanous, Awadalla, and Mikhael, Madleen.

\$500,000, 18 Arthur Dr #18, Cummings, Mikael K, and Cummings, Vanessa L, to Paul R Gardner RET, and Gardner, Paul R.

\$259,900, 6 Gary Ave, Gitsit Real Property LLC, to Ma Property Rt, and Cedrone, Doreen A.

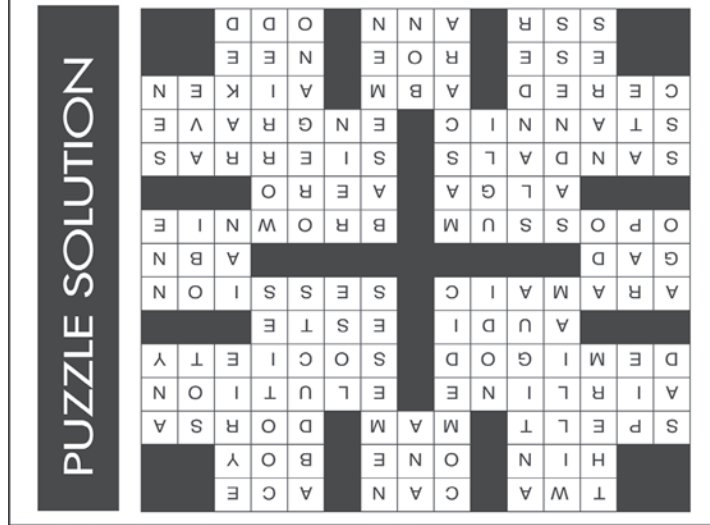
UXBRIDGE

\$425,000, 22 Pleasant St, Dentico, Lea S, and Ramsey, Travis R, to Haley, Kyle J, and Rigopoulos, Olivia M.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Defunct airline
 - 4. Beverage container
 - 7. A team's best pitcher
 - 10. Unit of liquid capacity
 - 11. It comes before two
 - 12. Male child
 - 13. Type of wheat
 - 15. One's mother
 - 16. Upper side of an organism
 - 19. United is one
 - 21. Extraction process
 - 23. A being with lesser divine status
 - 24. People living together in a community
 - 25. Luxury automaker
 - 26. This (Spanish)
 - 27. Semitic language
 - 30. Period for a defined purpose
 - 34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
 - 35. Up in the air (abbr.)
 - 36. American marsupial
 - 41. Decadent dessert
 - 45. Aquatic plant
 - 46. About aviation
 - 47. Summer footwear
 - 50. Rugged mountain ranges
 - 54. With tin
 - 55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
 - 56. Wrapped in cloth
 - 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
 - 59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
 - 60. Midway between east and southeast
 - 61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
 - 62. Born of
 - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 64. Actress ___-Margaret
 - 65. Not even

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Heat unit
 - 2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
 - 3. Guatemalan town
 - 4. Of funny things
 - 5. Actress ___ de Armas
 - 6. Agents of one's downfall
 - 7. Takes forcibly
 - 8. Body lice
 - 9. Large nest of a bird of prey
 - 13. Unhappy
 - 14. Popular holiday dessert
 - 17. Habitual drunkard
 - 18. Used of a number or amount not specified
 - 20. Complications
 - 22. Fail to win
 - 27. Before the present
 - 28. Musical genre
 - 29. Flurry
 - 31. 007's creator
 - 32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
 - 33. Midway between north and northeast
 - 37. Feeling
 - 38. Damage another's reputation
 - 39. Mottled citrus fruit
 - 40. Beauty product
 - 41. They man first, second and third
 - 42. Harness
 - 43. Herb
 - 44. Expressed concern
 - 47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
 - 48. Consumed
 - 49. Nostrils
 - 51. Gathered fallen leaves
 - 52. Express good wishes
 - 53. Monetary unit of Brunei
 - 58. Japanese Buddhist festival



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DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

Whitinsville Social Library

Event registration: northbridgemass.assaabetinteractive.com/calendar
 Museum passes: northbridgemass.assaabetinteractive.com/museum-passes
 Catalog: whitinsville.cwmars.org
 Website: northbridgemass.org/WSL

Hours:
 Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
 Friday 10 AM-5 PM
 Saturday 10 AM-2 PM
 Closing early Wednesday 11/27 at 1 PM
 Closed Thursday 11/28 & 11/29 for Thanksgiving

The Historian is In
 Wednesdays from 2-3 PM
 Drop-in between 2-3 on Wednesdays to get in-person assistance with your local history research from Northbridge Historical Society member Carol Brouwer.

Music & Movement with Miss Deb
 Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
 Join Miss Deb for singing, dancing, games, stories, and lots of fun. Ages 1-5. Registration required.

Storytime with Miss Isabel
 Thursdays at 10:30 AM
 Register for storytime with Miss Isabel to read books, sing songs, and do some coloring or a craft. Ages 1-5.

Book Club for Introverts
 Thursday 11/21 from 6-8 PM
 Come gather at the library with fellow book lovers to read and relax. There are no assigned readings. Bring your own book or browse and borrow one of the library's. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Meeting starts at 6, silent reading starts at 6:30. Small talk is not required. Please register.

Blast to the Past Book Club
 Monday 11/25 from 4-4:45 PM
 Calling all history lovers in 3rd-5th grade! In November, we will be reading "Who Was Seabiscuit?" by James Buckley Jr. Along with discussions, we will complete a fun activity related to the book. Snacks will be provided. Registration required. Copies of the book will be available at the children's and teens monthly book club display.

Get Help with Jenna Gouin
 Tuesday 11/26 10, 10:30, 11 & 11:30
 Patrons are invited to sign up for a 30 minute session with Jenna Gouin, MBA/MSOL from Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health. She can help you with: application assistance including MassHealth, SNAP, WIC, Fuel Assistance, Medicare, Social Security, Veteran's benefits; referrals to community organizations, mental health, and substance abuse providers; assistance obtaining financial resources to address past due rents and utilities; and guidance on solving some of life's challenging situations. Register.

Pages and Pals Book Club
 Tuesday 11/26 from 4-4:30 PM
 The perfect book club for beginner readers in K-2nd grade. Along with discussions, we will complete a fun activity related to the book. Snacks will be provided. Registration required. Copies of the book will be available at the children's and teens monthly book club display.

Chapter Chats YA Book Club
 Tuesday 11/26 from 5-5:45 PM
 Join Miss Isabel to discuss the November young adult book club pick, "I Killed Zoe Spanos" by Kat Frick. Snacks will be provided. Ages 13-17. Registration required. Copies of the book will be available at the children's and teens monthly book club display. *Please note: Chapter Chats Book Club meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of the month, but this month is changed to the last Tuesday of November due to the holiday.

Teen Creative Writing Club
 Monday 12/2 & 12/16 from 4-5 PM
 Grab your favorite notebook and join Miss Isabel on the first and third Monday of every month for the Teen Creative Writing Club! We will discuss different genres of writing, complete writing prompts, and use time at the end to journal and/or work on our own writing pieces. Grades 7-12. Registration required.

Fiction Book of the Month
 Monday 12/2 at 6 PM
 Read "The Midnight Feast" by Lucy Foley. Books are available for pick up at the library. Ebooks are available via Overdrive/Libby. Meetings take place at the library on the first Monday of each month. Refreshments provided. Registration required.

The Meet Cutes
 Tuesday 12/3 at 4 PM
 Discuss "Duke, Actually" by Jenny Holiday. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk or via Libby. Refreshments provided. This book club for readers of romance meets the first Tuesday of each month at 4 PM. Registration required.

Pajama Storytime
 Tuesday 12/3 & 12/17 from 6:30-7 PM

Grab your coziest PJ's and favorite small stuffed animal and join Miss Isabel for Pajama Storytime! Every other Tuesday we'll read bedtime stories and sing songs. Ages 1-6. Registration required.

Lego Club
 Wednesday 12/4 from 3:30-4:45 PM
 Join Miss Isabel on the first Wednesday of each month for Lego Club! Your masterpiece can be inspired by our chosen theme of the month or you can make up your own design! Ages 5-12. Please register. Legos will be provided.

Craft Hour for Children, Tweens, and Teens
 Saturday 12/7 from 12-1 PM
 On the first Saturday of every month, drop in to enjoy a craft hour in the Tween & Teen room.

The Whodunnits
 Tuesday 12/10 at 11 AM
 Discuss "Dead and Gondola" by Ann Claire. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk or via Libby. Refreshments provided. This book club for readers of mystery and suspense meets the second Tuesday of each month. Registration required.

Winter Craft Night for Children and Teens
 Tuesday 12/10 from 5:30-7 PM
 Drop in to the Tween & Teen Room to decorate paper snowflakes and win-

ter hats with various crafting supplies. Snowflake projects will be hung up after the event in the children's room for all to admire this winter.

Knits & Knots
 Wednesday 12/11 at 6:30
 Calling all fiber artists! Bring whatever craft project you're working on and join us at the library on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month for crafting and conversation. Light refreshments provided. Register.

Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop
 Thursday 12/12 at 6 PM
 Learn how to upgrade your gingerbread house decorating skills just in time for the holiday season with instructor Mandy Roberge. This program is for adults. Registration required.

Chapter Chats YA Book Club
 Tuesday 12/17 at 4 PM
 Join Miss Isabel to discuss the December young adult book club pick, "Blame it on the Mistletoe" by Beth Garrod. Snacks will be provided. Ages 13-17. Registration required. Copies of the book will be available at the children's and teens monthly book club display. *Please note: Chapter Chats Book Club meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of the month, but this month is changed due to the holidays.

Tween & Teen Graphic Novel Club
 Wednesday 12/18 at 4 PM
 On Wednesday, December 18th from 4-4:45 PM we are discussing December's Book Club pick, The Night Librarian by Christopher Lincoln. Along with discussion, we will also complete an activity related to the book. Snacks will be provided. Ages 10-17. Registration required. This book will be available about a month prior to the book club meeting and can be found at the children's and teens monthly book club display. Please read the book before attending the meeting.

Memoir Book Club
 Wednesday 12/18 at 6 PM
 Join us in a discussion of "Threading my prayer rug: one woman's journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim" by Sabeeha Rehman. Books are available for pick up at the library. Ebooks are available via Overdrive/Libby. Refreshments related to the book will be provided. Please register.

Noon Years Eve Party
 Tuesday 12/31 from 11:45 AM-12:15 PM
 Help us countdown to noon and celebrate the New Year at our Noon Years Eve Party! We will have a music and dance party, make NYE crowns, and complete our 2025 Wishing Wall. For ages 1-12. Please register.

Calling all actors back to the stage!

WHITINSVILLE — ValleyCAST, the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services, will be hosting their One Act Play Festival in March 2025. The festival promises a supportive and inclusive environment where participants can express themselves and connect with fellow theater enthusiasts. Whether you are an experienced actor or a newcomer to the stage, ValleyCAST welcomes and encourages you to register for the One Act Play Festival. Applications for the One Act Play Festival close on Friday, February 14, 2025. All abilities are welcome and there is no submission fee to participate. Performances will be held on



Courtesy

"The Howl and the Pussycat" performed by the Whitinsville Christian School Drama Club.

March 28 & 29 at 7 p.m. in the Singh Performance Center, 60 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, with the potential to have an additional performance date on March 30 at 2 p.m., depending on submissions. Original works, published one act plays, scene work, or monologues can be performed during the festival. After each 10-to-30-minute performance the judges will provide instructive feedback with three awards to be presented after the final performance of the festival. Awards will be presented for best original act, best ensemble, and best in show. "This is a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to perform in a welcoming community space" says Mary Laliberte, Open Sky Community Services Assistant

Director of Community Outreach. "Bringing back the One Act Play Festival is a great way to support local talent and creativity. We look forward to welcoming experienced actors and newcomers to the stage for this fun and entertaining festival."

For more information and/or to submit a One Act, visit: www.openskycs.org/valleycast or contact

Mary Laliberte at: mary.laliberte@openskycs.org | 508-234-6232

ValleyCAST's mission is to foster a creative and engaged community in the Historic Blackstone Valley that is inclusive and supportive of all people with and without disabilities. As the arts and culture arm of Open Sky, ValleyCAST curates events that bring people of all ages, abilities, and walks of life

together. Open Sky supports individuals facing complex challenges in Central Mass to achieve their definition of wellness and pursue the opportunities and relationships that are meaningful to them. We help them see beyond what they thought was possible to find their open sky. To learn more about ValleyCAST and Open Sky, visit: www.openskycs.org.

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Saturday, December 7th
 (Snow Date: Saturday, December 14th)

In-Person Fair: 10:00am-1:00pm

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PAW of the WEEK

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Apply for Rachael at pawfectliferescue.org

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Saturday, December 7, 2024
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St Joseph's Church Hall
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We are actively seeking crafters and vendors for this event.
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Save Main Street: Shop local and keep our towns alive

In a world dominated by two-day shipping and digital convenience, it's easy to forget the personality of our communities, the small businesses that line our Main Streets. These aren't just shops; they're the heartbeats of our towns, and the places where neighbors gather. They are the framework of New England's charm, the pillars of local economies, and the custodians of our town's character. Without them, what remains?

The reality is stark: every time we opt for an online order instead of visiting a local shop, we make a choice about the future of our communities. Small businesses are facing a relentless uphill battle, competing not only with giant corporations but also with the shifting habits of modern consumers. And when these businesses close, they take more than their storefronts with them—they take jobs, vibrancy, and a sense of belonging.

Shopping locally isn't just about buying goods; it's about investing in the people around us. That cup of coffee from the corner café supports a family. That thrift store find funds local charities. That gift shop purchase puts money back into the local economy, where it's reinvested to improve schools, roads, and public services. Your dollar goes further when spent locally because it stays local.

But this requires a conscious effort. Yes, online shopping is convenient, but at what cost? Do we really want to trade ease for a future of shuttered windows and hollowed-out Main Streets? Do we want our children to grow up in communities where "downtown" is a relic of the past?

We have a choice. This holiday season and beyond, let's make an intentional effort to visit our local bookstores, bakeries, and boutiques. Explore the unique treasures of thrift shops. Say yes to the farmer's market, the family-owned hardware store, and the independent art gallery. These businesses are run by our neighbors—people who support our schools, sponsor our Little League teams, and show up when we need them most.

If we don't invest in them, who will? Let's work together to keep our towns alive, vibrant, and full of opportunity. Let's shop local—not because it's trendy, but because it's essential.

Our communities depend on it. Let's not let convenience rob us of connection. Together, we can ensure that our Main Streets remain places we're proud to call home.

OPINION *Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lessons the Democrats should take from Trump's win

To the Editor:

In the wake of this historic political comeback and victory by Donald Trump, I would like to discuss the two main reasons why I think the Democrats faced such a stunning and well deserved defeat.

The first reason the left lost so badly was because of their candidate. Kamala Harris was a terrible candidate who ran a terrible campaign. What did she learn after being Vice President for almost four years? Apparently, nothing. She never had a deep understanding of the issues. You always had the feeling that whatever policies she put out there were because some research group told her that's what she should say. You have to believe in what you say to be believable. When you are questioned about your policies and have to defend them, you have to make sense in doing so. She couldn't do it. Everyone saw her to be the phony she really is. Everyone, that is, that doesn't have their head in the sand. She never deserved to be President. When she tries to run for the presidency in 2028, her campaign will last about as long as it did in her run in 2020 — measured in nanoseconds. She'll never stand up to the scrutiny of the voters, which is something she never had to do this time around. She was the beneficiary of the Democrat coup. The nomination was gifted to her. She could either have everything, or she could have nothing. Nothing is what she got. I believe her chance for winning

national political office ever again is over. The nation is better off for it. The only question left is how much more damage she and this administration will do while they still remain in office. If our enemies are going to move against us somewhere in the world, it will be now, during this lame duck session before Trump takes office. We are in grave danger.

The second reason she lost is because of her, and the left's, obsession with calling Trump the worst thing imaginable. To win an election, you not only have to put up a well thought out criticism of your opponent, but you have to articulate what you stand for as well. Her main argument in support of her candidacy was that she understood the dreams and aspirations of the American people. Really? You call Trump Hitler, a fascist, the Devil and everything else while trying to put him in jail, bankrupt him, tie him up in the legal system, twice try to have him killed, and you think you are going to win with dreams, aspirations and Hitler? The problem you have with your political posture is, you could never understand why tens of millions of people across the country love him. Because of that, you thought the more you vilified Trump, the more people would turn against him. It had the exact opposite effect. So congratulations. It cost you and your side the election.

There are Democrats out there that hate Donald Trump and wish him ill, politically and personally. You applaud

the legal system when it rules against Trump. Will you still applaud that same legal system when all these cases are won by Trump, or are overturned or dismissed?

Whether the Democrats know it or not, Donald Trump just did you a big favor. If you are paying attention, he just showed you what not to do if you want to win an election. I hope you learn your lesson and stop this hateful, divisive vitriol that you constantly spew. You get constant encouragement to continue your diatribe because of the far left sentiment in the blue state of Massachusetts. On the other hand, something inside me says I hope you keep it up. Across this country, state after state, the voters showed you they are sick and tired of listening to you. Some day soon, the people of Massachusetts will get sick of listening to you too and send you and the left into political oblivion. The sooner, the better.

Finally, to the Trump supporters out there, I say this: Congratulations. You supported the right man at the right time. Even though he didn't win this state, the rest of the country got it right. Donald Trump has more guts and courage than any public figure I can think of. Enjoy and support him now because we will never see another man like him ever again.

Thank you for reading.

*Jim Krikorian
Whitinsville*

The Department of No Justice

\$103,000 for misdemeanors!

Her actions? Praying on Capitol grounds on Jan. 6, 2021. Corrupt No Merit Garland is slowly, but surely, stalking each and every one of the Jan. 6 protestors until he grinds them into fine powder.

Grandma Rebecca Lavrenz was convicted by a jury not-of-her-peers [a D.C. jury] for "entering and remaining in a restricted building for 10 minutes, disorderly conduct, parading, demonstrating, picketing in the Capitol."

For 10 minutes. All legal under The First Amendment.

She stated: "I went through a door that opened in front of me and walked through the Capitol. I carried God's presence into that building for 10 minutes, walked out, did not shout, stayed within the [tourist] lines, was not stopped by any police officer and walked out." And thus, Satan attacked her.

How cute is this? The Department of No Justice arrested her a week before Christmas in December 2022. A week before Christmas.

Grandma Lavrenz said: "My own country is treating me like a criminal just because I believe that... they stole my rightful President... And just standing up for my country makes me a criminal. It's not right. It feels so weird."

Did you know that JFK won by just 118,000 votes in 1960? Did you know that Dementia Joe won by just 43,000 votes across four states, votes that suddenly

appeared in automatic voting machines at 3 a.m.? In 2024, it was Too Big to Rig.

Grandma Lavrenz is among hundreds of citizens that the No Justice Department has aggressively persecuted. Nevermind, that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Jan. 6 defendants who were charged with felonies under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act as "obstructing an official proceeding" were "unfairly prosecuted" because the Justice Department did not apply the law correctly. If Mrs. Lavrenz was a Socialist in New York, Alvin Bragg-a-Donuts would have dismissed the case.

The No Justice Department tortured that law to charge 300 Jan. 6 defendants with felonies, which permitted the court to sentence some to 19 years in jail. President Elect Trump will pardon them. Social justice! As the Great Howie Carr chants: "Hey, hey, ho, ho! the Deep State has got to go!"

A few weeks ago, the Biden-Harris Geniuses were giving the Mastermind of 9-11 [Khalid Sheik Mohamed] a life sentence. Not a death sentence. Until the New York families of firefighters and police started screaming bloody-murder.

As one Congressman recently said, "the government fears Trump because he will clean house in D.C. and fire employees in the top tier. Somebody needs to go through those government agencies like General Grant through Richmond."

He will.

*Bev Gudanowski
Uxbridge*

To the Editor:

It's been a while since I wrote to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, and only the Editor himself knows why that is. I will be brief in my presentation and only present facts, which I am sure will upset some people particularly those that voted for Kamala Harris.

All throughout her short tenure as the Democrat candidate, Kamala Harris and her cohorts: the New York Times, MSNBC, CNN, ABC, CBS, and the Washington Post to name a few referred to president elect Donald Trump as a threat to democracy and they even went as far as calling Trump Hitler with nothing to back it up. History will show that whenever a Republican runs for office, they are always labeled as racists, homophobes, xenophobes, and Hitler-like, which is right out of the Democratic playbook because as of right now, John McCain, Mitt Romney, and Mike Pence are all in good graces with the Democrats. McCain, Romney, and Pence were all labeled as racists, homophobes,

xenophobes and oh how they resemble Hitler himself when they were republican candidates in a presidential race.

Joe Biden recently had Donald J. Trump come to the White House for a meet and greet but prior to that visit trying to help Kamala Harris get elected; Joe Biden referred to Trump as a threat to democracy... and garbage... Biden in 2019 said, "I'd like to take him behind the gym and teach him a lesson"...But if you saw the photo ops and video of that historic day Joe Biden never looked happier; perhaps glad to be done being Barack Obama's puppet.

America has spoken and they didn't want Kamala Harris as POTUS in 2019 because deep down they knew she wasn't a good leader for the West then and certainly not now. Some will say that Americans are misogynists and racists because they wouldn't elect a woman of color but here is where the pundits are wrong. Kamala Harris had no plans for this country except to go further down the rabbit hole via the Biden administration. During Kamala's visit to "The View," one

A threat to democracy

of the hosts, Sunny Hostin asked Kamala this question," What would you do as president differently from Joe Biden? Harris' now-infamous response that there was "not a thing that comes to mind" that she'd have done differently from her boss stunned political observers, given her struggle to distance herself from the unpopular Biden administration on the campaign trail. Sunny Hostin followed up with a layup question but Kamala failed miserably and when you fail in front of an audience mostly made up of democrat voters you lose the argument every time.

The good news is that there was never a threat to democracy. There was never a threat to take away women's rights to abortion, although it does disturb me when Alyssa Milano is bragging about having her fifth abortion and contemplating on having a sixth one in the future. Imagine having five abortions despite all the birth control that's available it makes me cringe. Donald Trump is not a dictator, he is our president whether you like him or not and should

he invoke a little payback to the people that tried to jail him or kill him I can't blame him. I'd also like to point out three things that have happened since Donald Trump became president elect.

1. The war in Israel is still going on, but not on the level it was before the election. Hamas, Houthi Rebels, Hezbollah, and Iran have all decided to take a step back after the election.

2. There is a sense of ease in the air after Nov. 6; I can't quite put my finger on it but people have begun to relax over the results of this election.

3. The nasty talk about Trump now only comes in small patches considering Trump wanted to help Kamala Harris with the money she owed to Hollywood celebs who attended her rally. These same celebs were supposed to leave this country in the event Trump became the president of the United States so don't hold your breath waiting for it to happen! Be well, people.

*Michael Downing
Whitinsville*

It's over... thank goodness

judge current, marketplace scenarios for what they truly are-fantasies.

Resistance is misplaced, and no "obituary" for country results from this election. No Hitler-like dictator takes the Oath on Jan. 20; no "threat to democracy" looms; and a "peaceful transfer of power" is underway. No garbage, racist, Nazi, Fascist, misogynist, xenophobe population goose-steps down Main Street, USA. No "personal freedoms and rights" are in jeopardy, but those females so inclined can feel 'free' to exercise their right to emigrate elsewhere and/or answer die-hard, clarion calls ("don't spread for

Red") to deny sex to Trump-voting males!

To those hyperventilating over Nov. 5th... this too shall pass! Meanwhile, stop hyperbolic rhetoric and allow (a possibility of) good governance to flower by demanding real 'unity' from both parties for America's ultimate good. As holidays approach, greet family members, next-door neighbors, friends and acquaintances in friendly tones. Do not let political differences destroy precious "ties that bind." Allegiance is pledged to "one Nation... indivisible," no party or person, and "We, the People" includes everyone! By 2028, a "shining city on the hill" will

still stand for us to celebrate the glorious freedoms we gladly fight and die to keep.

One last point, Mr. Editor: like me, others may be exhausted by weekly over-long political bombardments. Consider revising this section, because new writers might be more inclined to contribute if letters were limited to one (typed) page and derogatory name-calling strictly prohibited. Anyway, might the Tribune not derive better business benefit from extra space devoted to more Valley news?

*Jane F. Keegan
Uxbridge*

The Democrats' campaign was founded on lies

To the Editor:

During the final weeks leading up to the election, the two competing sets of mission statements were very much in evidence.

"God, guns and country" pretty much summed up the patriotic mission statements of candidate Trump and his supporters.

Meanwhile, for candidate Harris and her fellow anti-patriotic left-wing extremists, their mission statements were a bit

more involved. For nestled among their usual devout hatred of God, life and liberty, came their love of lies and falsehoods. Right along with their verbal assaults on truth, justice, honesty, integrity, morality, US traditions and her values.

Which is why there is absolutely no truth to be found in anything that hails from the left these days. Nancy Pelosi's insistence that the election was not a "rebuttal" of the Democrats is just one of the many examples of the lies that

the liberal team must now embrace and expound upon.

The Harris campaign was founded upon lies, and that's what doomed it. A simple enough truth that the left will never yield to.

So instead, they will continue to double-down on their anti-patriotic bets with more and more lies.

*Stephen Gambone
Northbridge*

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House Association to hold annual Thanksgiving service

UXBRIDGE — The annual Thanksgiving celebration at the Uxbridge Quaker Meetinghouse will be held this year on Thursday, Nov. 28 at 9:30 a.m. The event is truly a family affair, enlivened by music and a warm glow from the two blazing fires. Three representatives from the area faith community will assist with the service. A short period of thoughtful reflection in the Quaker tradition will provide the opportunity to breathe deeply, relax and let the serenity

of the surroundings take over for a precious moment. A fellowship gathering in the carriage shed will follow the service, featuring hot beverages and pastries. The meetinghouse, built in 1770, stands at the junction of Aldrich Street and Quaker Highway in Uxbridge. It is maintained by the Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House Association, a non-profit 501 C (3) organization founded in 1952. The Association's primary purpose is the preservation and maintenance of the

historic building, but it also encourages the use of the meetinghouse for religious, educational and civic events. If you plan to attend the Thanksgiving service, do remember that the meetinghouse is decidedly rustic (i.e. no facilities). And it is often not much warmer inside than the outside temperature. A warm coat and a thick blanket to cover

your legs are advised if the day is cold. Despite the chill there are few experiences that convey the spirit of Thanksgiving in as meaningful a way as this simple service. For further information about the Meetinghouse Association please contact quakermeetinghouseasn@gmail.com or go to Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House Association on Facebook.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

Orban — the inspiration for Project 2025

To the Editor:

Let's start with the ending. America appears to be heading towards an illiberal democracy before this is all over — and the majority of voters choose this. The only question is how fast it will happen before 2026, or will it be by the end of his second term?

There is an identified model Trump is following to reach his goals for his America. He is demonstrating that he has already learned many of the objective lessons Victor Orban used to turn Hungary into an illiberal democracy.

"This is Orban's description, not a critical epithet leveled by his detractors. It is illiberal because the government openly favors, in both its rhetoric and policies, one set of beliefs at the expense of others. Christianity, or rather a specific strand of conservative Christianity, enjoys a privileged status; it is first among unequals.

And this arraignment is arguably just a reflection of the will of the Hungarian people." (Sandsmark) Realize Orban has done this through a type of 'election.'

It never seemed to make much sense, looking back, why so many Maga loyal were making pilgrimages or connecting with Orban's Hungary and its reps. Why would Trump's inner circle, Don Jr., Vance, CPAC conference attendees, think tank researchers, Tucker Carlson and Christopher Ruffo think that Hungary was worth studying with such passion? CPAC sessions with Hungary are known to have discussed: "immigration, LGBTQ rights, and combatting woke Ideology." And why would Project 2025 Heritage Foundation be so centered on this man? Orban noted during a speech this summer in front of thousands of supporters, "We have entered the policy-writing system of President Donald Trump's team. We have deep involvement there." (CBS) Heritage Foundation, under President Kevin Roberts, decided that Project 2025 would use "Orban's leadership as a model for conservative governance (illiberal democracy)" (CBS). And that was their offering to Trump via Project 2025.

This model is based on the Unitary Executive Theory, where the president has complete control of the executive branch, with a Trump addition of seemingly doing this without the usual checks and balances. Orban's approach appears focused on actual constitutional and institutional changes in the other branches besides the executive.

Orban's winning tactical plan revolved around creating political power by commanding three key resources: "votes, ideology, and money." It is not hard to see that Trump is attempting to command those same resources to "reproduce the same power." Some of the objectives in pursuing illiberalism are included here as a thumbnail sketch of some of those paradigms. Objective One: Seize on a world crisis. Orban used the global economic crisis of 2008. Trump used the worldwide crisis of inflation after the COVID-19 pandemic. Objective Two: Get a major religion/s to support your regime. Orban secured the Catholic Church.

Trump secured the Evangelical right, Christian Nationalists, and Catholic Nationalists. Objective three: sideline more moderate traditionalist colleagues in your party. Orban, "Sideline his moderate colleagues as he moved right" after he lost his first election. Trump is highlighting MAGA appointments after he lost his previous election. Objective Four: Control major media with your message.

Orban. "Built up a new business elite of cronies using state infrastructure developments as the main source of funding. By manipulating public procurements,

the government could craftily redirect billions of U.S. dollars in European development funds to a small group of selected companies. Now the Hungarian business elite are feeding loyal media with hefty advertisements. Trump used Musk to buy and provide X. Trump loyalists are now trying to buy Infowars.

And this doesn't include the networks of manosphere podcasts, etc. There is a potential concern that Trump will privatize American public assets, further concentrating 'wealth and power among a select group of his associates — the oligarchs'. Objective six: Identify the Scapegoats to blame for the crisis. Orban, "polarized public discourse portraying the left-liberal government coalition as the adversary of the nation". His enemy groups also include NGOs, Soros, independent media, and the EU. A critical component is to "plainly state Hungary is only for Hungarians because we don't want 'to become a mixed race.'" As migrants are reduced, the new scapegoat may be the poor. Without work, citizens don't get services. Trump's words center on those "enemies within." Using more colorful jargon, he talks about "radical left lunatics and sick people." Don't forget another favorite, "the deep state." This group includes specific Democrats, Cheney, journalists, various government agencies and personnel, anyone who disagrees with him and immigrants — those 'vermin'. He uses an "ethnonationalist" tradition of American identity in his campaign 'rhetoric.' This tradition of American identity is based on a set of criteria ('usually including being white, Christian, native-born, and English-speaking') to define who is a "real" American."

Trump does appear more multicultural than Orban — faint praise. Objective seven:

decide who gets rewarded and who is going to get targeted. Orban's economy is geared towards rewarding the new oligarchs while not relying on diversity or even meritocracy. Will Trump follow suit? We can only see that Trump's key choices highlight loyalty and don't seem to be based much on meritocracy. Both agree on bullying universities, targeting LGBTQ+, removing independent press, reducing Trans rights, targeting asylum seekers, and supporting classic patriotic education while revising each country's historical narrative.

Perhaps the most taxing part of watching Trump now is who, in practical terms, is going to live a normal life under his administration. And who will have to question their financial future, their liberty, and human rights under his administration? Will science or truth ever guide us again? This shock is similar to a scene from Interstellar. "McConaughey looks bewildered when he's told by his daughter's teacher that his child is being taught that Apollo missions were faked to bankrupt the Soviet Union." Cooper says, "You don't believe we went to the moon?" "The teacher explains that that's what the 'corrected versions' of textbooks now say about the US, which is why it was problematic that his daughter brought in one of his old textbooks, which includes a section on lunar landings."

As Trump is often heard repeating, "A lot of people say..." In a sign of support for the new administration, let's use his adage, "A lot of people say." FAFO. We will now 'find out' as Trump, likely rather pompously follows the Orban model, as he personally leads America's first illiberal democratic administration. And he hasn't even walked into the White House yet.

Linda Lacki Northbridge

'Tis the season: is a donor advised fund right for you?

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP
LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

The months of November and December usher in two of America's biggest holidays — Thanksgiving and Christmas. Friends and relatives plan get together, begin gift shopping, and children eagerly make lists for Santa Claus. For many Americans, these holidays also lead to increased feelings of gratitude and generosity. The term "Giving Season" is often used to describe this time of year, and up to 34 percent of annual online charitable donations occur within December alone.

According to the Giving USA 2023 Annual Report, Americans gave a total of \$557.16 billion in 2023 with the largest source coming from individuals (individuals gave \$374.40 billion or 67% of total).

If you are one of the millions of Americans that are charitably inclined, perhaps you've heard the term 'Donor Advised Funds' (DAFs). If you haven't heard of DAFs — or if you don't understand their potential benefit — please read on.

DAFs were created in the 1930s but they weren't formally recognized by the IRS code until 2006. Since then, they've become one of the fastest-growing vehicles for philanthropy, with grants from DAFs accounting for nearly 10 percent of all giving in the United States. Today there are approximately 1.9 million DAF accounts in the U.S.

Because most Americans don't have the financial means to create their own endowment or foundation, a DAF can easily function in a similar capacity and be set up for low minimums. Depending on the sponsor firm chosen, the minimum initial contribution often ranges between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Simply put, a DAF allows any individual (or business) to open an account, receive an immediate up-front tax deduction, and recommend grants from the account over time. Donors have the flexibility to add to their DAF as frequently or infrequently as they like. They can recommend grants to their favorite charities whenever desired, all from the convenience of one streamlined account. Plus, the assets can be prudently invested to seek growth and years of potential giving.

Common scenarios when a DAF could be worth consideration:

- You are in a high tax bracket due to the sale of a business (or appreciated asset)
- You want to lower your Adjusted Gross Income and "bunch" several years of donations into one tax year
- You typically give to multiple charities and want to simplify the administrative process
- You want to create a DAF in memory of a specific loved one, family, or organization
- You already plan to bequest a portion of your estate to charity

Most donors name their Donor Advised Fund after themselves or family members, for example: John and Jennifer Smith Fund, or Jones Family Charitable Fund. Others name their funds for a purpose, such as: Local Children's Health Fund. If the DAF is created on behalf of a business entity, it could even be named after the organization and accept employee donations.

Everyone's charitable and financial goals are unique, and there are additional rules and regulations regarding

DAFs. As a result, you should consult with a knowledgeable Financial Planner and/or Tax Consultant. Together they should be able to answer your questions and assist in determining if a DAF is right for you. Working with a professional can help simplify the setup, administration, and ongoing investment management. Maintaining a DAF does involve a combination of annual fees (administrative + investments), but the total cost is often less than donating to charity via a credit card.

At The Capstone Planning Group, we utilize an independent business model and have the flexibility to help clients choose from a variety of DAF sponsors. We also have the freedom to create investment portfolios using stocks, bonds, ETFs and mutual funds from companies including (but not limited to): American Funds, Fidelity, Blackrock, Invesco, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, PIMCO, State Street, Vanguard and many more

About The Capstone Planning Group
The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor. Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Cornerstone Bank and The Capstone Planning Group are not registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using The Capstone Planning Group and may also be employees of Cornerstone Bank. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of, The Capstone Planning Group. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are:

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Robert Babineau Jr. M.D., Member since 2023



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Grass Roots Coffeehouse announces Christmas in New England concert

NORTHBRIDGE Winter Solstice in New England, Roots Coffeehouse
— Celebrate the with Christmas hosted by the Grass and the Rockdale

Taft Early Learning Center STEAM Lab hosts interactive events with local experts

U X B R I D G E — Over the past month, the Taft Early Learning Center STEAM Lab has hosted a series of exciting and educational events, giving students hands-on experiences in engineering, forensic science, and marine navigation. These unique sessions featured prominent local professionals who shared insights from their fields, sparking curiosity and fostering practical learning among the students.



The series began with a visit from Nick Hoague, an engineer at Boston Dynamics, who introduced second-grade students to the world of robotics and coding. Hoague, who works with cutting-edge technology, shared insights into the process of engineering and designing robots, explaining the journey from selecting the right components to achieving precise functionalities. Students learned about the purpose and capabilities of these advanced robots—and even had the opportunity to interact with one. "Petting the robot" was a highlight for many students, who were thrilled to experience this

innovative technology firsthand. Additionally, students had the chance to learn how to code the robot, bridging the gap between abstract coding concepts and real-world applications. Following this, Taft Early Learning Center students became junior detectives in a "crime scene investigation" activity centered on the disappearance of the school's beloved classroom tortoise, Hatteras. In this exercise, students honed their observational skills, analyzing clues and working to identify potential suspects among the school staff. With guidance from the Uxbridge Police Department—including Chief Marc Montminy, Detective Jesse Miller, and School Resource Officer Dan Deveau—students examined

footprints, fingerprints, and palm prints to deduce the identity of the "culprit." The police officers not only lent their expertise but also shared how observation plays a crucial role in solving real-life cases, giving students an invaluable look into the world of forensic science.

To round out the educational series, the STEAM Lab welcomed Christopher Mannka, a second officer from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Research Vessel (R/V) Neil Armstrong. Mannka spoke to kindergarten students about his experiences piloting research vessels in the Icelandic region and discussed the engineering behind shipbuilding. An alum of Uxbridge Schools himself, Mannka's presence

offered a meaningful connection for students, who were eager to learn about oceanographic exploration from a fellow community member. Following his presentation, Mannka joined the students in a hands-on science experiment where they crafted and tested tin foil boats, learning about buoyancy and the principles of floating.

These events, organized by the Ms. Amanda Gallerani from the Taft Early Learning Center STEAM Lab, brought real-world science and engineering to life for students, creating memorable and meaningful learning experiences. By engaging with local professionals, the students are inspired not only to dream about future careers in these fields but to understand the pathways and skills required to achieve them.

Ms. Gallerani continues to prioritize interactive, inquiry-based learning that encourages students to observe, experiment, and innovate, fostering a lifelong love for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Congregational Church. Christmas in New England has been performing concerts for more than 20 years, at RCC since 2007. Karen Wilber, Amy Gallatin, Roger Williams, JD Williams, Dave Orloski, Krissy & Bob Dick will present a night of traditional, contemporary, original Christmas and Holiday/Seasonal songs. The concert



will take place in sanctuary of the Rockdale Cong. Church, 42 Fowler Rd., Northbridge, on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Prior to the show, come

have a bowl of soup or chili, and at intermission have dessert. Proceeds go to the Church. Also, we'll have our Cookie Walk at intermission. Buy a box for \$10 and fill it up with cookies baked by the congregation. Admission to the show is \$15 at the door only. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is at a first come/first serve basis.

Girl Scouts honor founder Juliette Gordon Low

UPTON — On Nov. 1, Girl Scouts of Mendon, Hopedale and Upton, ages five to 16, came together to celebrate the birthday of founder Juliette Gordon Low. The girls had ice cream and played minute-to-win-it games. They also collected over 300 items including menstrual products and undergarments and more than \$300 for Dignity Matters to help girls and women in Massachusetts affected by period poverty. Dignity Matters provides free menstrual care to 16,500 people every month in Massachusetts through a network of 175 nonprofit partners across the state. From Springfield to Hyannis, Haverhill to Fall River, and everywhere in between, these shelters, schools, food pantries, and clinics — and the women they support — can count on Dignity Matters every month. Mendon Hopedale Upton Girl Scout Service Unit serves



girls in grades K-12 and is part of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts of Central

and Western Massachusetts serves with the mission to build girls of courage, confidence and

character, who make the world a better place. For more information, please visit www.gscwm.org.

Blackstone Valley Art Association seeks submissions for photography show

REGION — The Blackstone Valley Art Association is sponsoring the 13th Annual Anything Goes Photography Show — this show is open to the public! Prints from all styles of digital cameras, film cameras, cellphone cameras, point-and-shoots, SLRs, cyanotypes, and other photo-related artwork are warmly welcome! The drop-off date for the show is Saturday, Jan.



Courtesy

Last year's first place winner, "Mother May I" by Sarah Lemansky. 4 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the BVAA Community Art Gallery at 5 South Main St.

in Uxbridge. The opening reception for the show is Friday, Jan. 10. Each participant may exhibit two photos, which will be judged for cash prizes. Applications, hanging guidelines for the show, and drop-off details can be found at bvaa.org. A portion of all sales goes to support the work of Open Sky in the community.

As part of this community photography show, the

BVAA will host a series of free photography workshops on composition, shutter speed, depth of field, and other topics. Check out our BVAA.org website and social media as we set up that schedule. Partial funding for BVAA activities comes from Local Cultural Council Grants.

We look forward to seeing your artwork! For more information, email info@bvaa.org.

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OBITUARIES

Jacqueline C. Aldrich, 82

Stuart, FL -Jacqueline C. Aldrich, mother, sister, memere, aunt, partner and friend, passed away on November 7, 2024, at the age of 82. Born in Woonsocket, RI on February 9, 1942, she raised her family in Northbridge, MA and resided in Stuart, Florida for 34 years. She was known for her beautiful blue eyes, kind smile and warm, inviting home. She had a kind word and positive encouragement for everyone.



She graduated from Woonsocket High School in 1959 and received an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Fisher Junior College in 1985. Jackie was a bookkeeper at Dial Finance and the supervisor of Bookkeeping at Beaumont Nursing home in Northbridge and Westboro MA. In 1988, she became the Executive Bookkeeper for Broad Reach Health Companies on Cape Cod, MA and in Stuart, FL.

Following her retirement, she enjoyed traveling with family, friends, and her beloved partner Neville. In her spare time, she was a volunteer delivery driver for The Council on Aging of Martin County Meals on Wheels program and a volunteer file clerk for the Fort Pierce Police Department.

Jackie lived a beautiful life by the beaches of Cape Cod, Stuart, FL and Prince Edward Island. The mere mention of "PEI" brought her great joy indeed. She was an adventurous soul who loved to travel. The Caribbean held a special place in her heart. She loved Music, dancing and experiencing different cultures. These places and countless summer days in Canada with her friends and family made her laugh, smile and

created cherished memories for all.

Jackie enjoyed a vibrant community at her home in Montego Cove. The Pinochle Club, Book Clubs, game nights with the ladies. One would be hard pressed to best her at Scrabble or Rumi-Q. Jackie loved reading in the Hammock, nestled in the Beautiful and Tranquil Butterfly Gardens, created by her partner Neville. They both cared deeply about butterfly cultivation and conservation.

She is survived by her lifelong partner, Neville Browne of Stuart, FL; her daughters, Melissa C. Aldrich of Holland, MA, Rebecca A.E. Aldrich of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Leslie H. Aldrich of Bozeman, MT; and two grandchildren, Nathaniel S. Grondin of Los Angeles, CA, and Natalie A.E. Grondin of Northbridge, MA. She also leaves behind her brothers, Dennis R. Ducharme, Donald R. Ducharme, and Norman E. Ducharme, as well as her nephew and three nieces. She was predeceased by her parents, Constance F. Beaudry Ducharme and Emile N. Ducharme of Woonsocket, RI.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00AM, Monday, November 25, 2024, at Carr Funeral Home, 24 Hill St., Whitinsville, Burial, at Saint Jean the Baptiste Cemetery, in Bellingham, will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Treasure Coast Hospice, 1000 SE Ruhnke St., Stuart, FL 34994, or to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601. To share a memory or condolence with the family, please visit www.carrfuneralhome.com

Loraine A. Stratton Nedoroscik, 97

Uxbridge- Loraine A. (Glode) Stratton Nedoroscik, 97, passed away peacefully in her home on November 10, 2024. She was predeceased by her husband John H. Stratton who passed away in 1981. She later married Joseph P. Nedoroscik who passed away in 1993.



She is survived by 6 children Deborah Gray of Whitinsville, John H. Stratton Jr., and his wife Debra of Uxbridge, Michael J. Stratton and his wife Julie of Framingham, Rosemary Lewis of Panama City, FL, Ellen J. Mayo of Uxbridge, and Jeffrey PH Stratton and his wife Valerie of Whitinsville; 18 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces. She was sister of the late Doris Handfield, Janet Miller, Richard Glode, Ernest "Bud" Glode, Carol Belmont and Ronald Glode. She was also predeceased by her grandson Patrick Primavera, and son-in-law, Charles Mayo.

Born in Uxbridge on July 21, 1927 she was the daughter of Ernest and Alice (DesJourdy) Glode and grew up in Uxbridge. She has been a Milford resident since 1983. She was a graduate of Uxbridge High School and was active in their drum corp. She furthered her education at Quinsigamond Community College where she attained a degree in social work. Loraine was a pioneer, instrumental in the development & creation of the Uxbridge Senior Center, where she worked 25 years as the center's Director. She then worked for the Greater Milford VNA and Hospice out of

Mendon for many years.

Loraine served on many committees and boards in the town of Uxbridge. She was a member of the Council on Aging and the Historical Society. Patriotism led her to join the women's relief core, holding the position of President for many years. She was a woman of strong faith. Her servant heart was expressed through her kindness and generosity for those in need, especially the elderly. She was a member of St. Mary's Parish.

Loraine had quite the sense of humor which brought joy to all who knew her. Traveling, music, crafts and playing cards were some of her favorite pastimes. Most importantly was the love she shared for her family and friends.

Our family wishes to express heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the devoted and loving caregivers and Faith and Family Hospice.

Her Memorial Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, November 22nd at 11 AM in St. Mary's Parish, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge. Cremation burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. A calling hour will be held prior to her Mass in Tancrell-Jackman Funeral Home, 35 Snowling Rd., Uxbridge from 9:30-10:30 AM. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Loraine's memory may be made to Faith and Family Hospice, 420 Lakeside Ave., Suite 203, Malborough MA 01752 or the Uxbridge Senior Center, 36 S. Main St., Uxbridge Ma 01569. To leave a condolence message for her family please visit: www.JackmanFuneralHomes.com

Millbury Senior Center

HOLIDAY PARTY WITH ROBERT BLACK " ELVIS"

Monday, December 9th 11 A.M.
Ham Dinner and dessert
Reservations no later than December 2nd

BETTER BREATHERS CLUB

Tuesday, November 26th 10:30 A.M. - 11 A.M.

SENATOR MOORE LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 4th at 12 P.M.
Turkey Dinner with all the fixings
Special Dessert
Call to sign up 508-865-9154

SENATOR MOORE'S OFFICE

Meet with a representative from Senator Moore's office!
Wednesday, December 4th
First Wednesday of the month between 11 - 12 P.M.

TRANSPORTATION

All appointments will be accepted by the WRTA
Millbury Seniors 60 and older / those with ADA services call 508-752-9283 in order to register with the WRTA in advance if they need transportation
Transportation Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. & Fridays 8 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Rides have to be scheduled by 4:30 P.M. the day before by calling 508-752-9283
For more information on regards to transportation call the center at 508-865-9154

SENIOR CENTER EXERCISE CLASSES!

ZUMBA CLASSES
Mondays at 1 P.M. (Class is \$3)

LIGHT EXERCISE CLASSES

Mondays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. (Free!)

TAI CHI

Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. (class is \$3)

LINE DANCING CLASSES

Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. (Class is \$3)

YOGA

Thursdays 9 - 10 A.M. (Class is \$3)

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES!

MAHJONG

Mondays at 12:45 P.M.

CRIBBAGE

Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M.

SOCIAL BINGO

Wednesdays at 1 P.M.
Bring your pennies!

PITCH

Thursdays 1 - 3 P.M.

COLORING

Thursdays at 10 A.M.
Lunches are served Monday through Thursday 12 P.M. Friday 11:30 A.M.

The menu is available on the town website, www.townofmillbury.org

Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page.

A 48 hour reservation is required. Call the center at 508-865-9154

"MEMORY CAFÉ"

Please join us on Tuesday, December 17th at 1 P.M.

Refreshments will be served

A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss / challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends, and have a good time

Our Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-9154!

SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps)

Our appointments are on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

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Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

(508) 234-2002

We are accepting donations for our Plummer Place Café. Heavy duty plasticware utensils, heavy duty plates large and small, bowls, napkins, plastic cups, crystal lite packs, bottled water either large or small, creamers, decaf coffee and regular coffee, Shaw's gift cards. We appreciate all donations to help our café run successfully!

Plummer Place Shuffleboard League has openings for a few more players. They meet every Tuesday at 9:00am. Call the Center to join this fun league or for more information.

Plummer Place Singers has changed its day and time. They will now meet on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. Raienne Richards will lead you as a group, to develop your skills, to enjoy the camaraderie, and to perhaps sing for others. If you would like to join this group, please call the Center to sign up. The cost is \$5 per week.

"Writing Your Way" will meet Thursdays from 2:00-3:30pm. They will meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. All writers are wel-

come to share their writing with others, get motivated to write their story, and get feedback from fellow writers! Lori Gannon is the instructor for this class, call the Center for more information. \$5/class.

"Understanding Grief", Mondays, November 18th and 25th, December 2nd and 9th at 2:00pm. Join us for this 4-week class to explore and understand our grief together in a safe environment. Come ready to learn and begin healing. Please bring a journal to write in. At the end of the four-week class, we will continue as a Grief Support Group, meeting the second Monday of the month at 2:00pm, beginning January 13th. Sign up in the main office.

Author Event and Book Signing: Rod Lee's "Danny Dear", Thursday, December 5th 1-2:00pm. Rod will be at Plummer Place to discuss his newest book and talk about his writing journey. "Danny Dear", a memoir, is the powerful first-person account of a son's addiction and a father's love as they battle Danny's illness together. His book will be available at this event, cash only. Sign up in the office.

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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3659EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Kenneth Mikel Steele
Date of Death: 10/01/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jean E Conley of Douglas MA** and **Erin L Henry of Northbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Jean E Conley of Douglas MA** and **Erin L Henry of Northbridge MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised**

administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/10/2024**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal

Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 08, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 22, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO24D13575DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Mady Auguste vs. Mariam Auguste

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has

been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

Mady Auguste
117b Quaker HWY #45
Uxbridge, MA 01569

your answer, if any, on or before **01/06/2025**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 9, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

November 8, 2024
November 15, 2024
November 22, 2024

Douglas Adult Social Center

331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon
DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:30 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line Dancing 2 to 2:45pm
Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 10am, MahJong 1pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:30am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

NOVEMBER EVENTS:
The center will be closed on Thursday the 28th.
DECEMBER EVENTS:
The center will be closed on Tuesday December 24th & Wednesday December 25th. Happy Holidays!
Bemis Nursery: Thursday December 5th @ 11am. We will be making a beautiful holiday centerpiece. The cost for this craft is \$20.00 and MUST be paid when you sign up. Please sign up by November 27th.
Free Holiday Craft: Wednesday December 11th @ 11:30am. We will be making small tabletop Holiday Trees. We will provide the tree, lights, & decorations. After our craft we will be joined by a local 4-H group for a sing along and cookies & cocoa. Please sign up before December 6th.

Veterans Breakfast: Thursday December 12th @ 9:00am. All Veterans and their spouses are welcome to sign up for breakfast. Please sign up before Dec. 6th.
Hearing Aid Cleanings: Thursday December 12th from 10am to 11am. Please call the center to schedule an appointment.
Musical Bingo & Lunch: Thursday December 12th @ 11:30am. Lasagna, salad & dessert will be served for \$4.00 per person. Musical Bingo to follow! Please sign up before Dec. 9th.
Annual Holiday Party: Thursday December 19th @ 12pm, join us for a wonderful lunch with friends. The cost for lunch will be \$5.00 per person. Musical entertainment is provided by our Douglas Cultural Council. Please sign up before Dec. 12th.

SUNSHINE CLUB EVENTS:
Meetings are held at the center on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm.
Annual Gingerbread House Decorating: Friday December 6th @ 12pm. Come in and have some fun decorating your own house. All supplies are provided. Please sign up before November 22nd.
Holiday Social: Saturday December 14th from 5pm to 6:30pm. The Sunshine Club will be at the Douglas Town Common serving cookies, & hot chocolate while caroling. Please call the center to sign up before Dec. 10th.
PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES
Check our website for events that may not be listed here <https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>



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TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Thanksgiving is arguably the most anticipated annual holiday, and the highlight of an annual Thanksgiving celebration is the fabulous feast, with a turkey served up as the crowning centerpiece of the both the table and the holiday. A large, golden brown bird, roasted to perfection and surrounded by a medley of delicious accompaniments has no culinary competition at the dining table.

With so much at stake (and so much to go wrong), it's no wonder we're obsessed about turning out a feast on par with the roasted beauties we recall from our childhoods. Thus, this week's column offers a guide to preparing a Thanksgiving turkey along with some fun facts about the holiday bird. Happy Thanksgiving!

Many a novice cook has been intimidated by the mere thought of preparing a turkey for dinner, nonetheless for a Thanksgiving feast. The good news is turkeys are not difficult to cook, and all it takes is a little advance preparation to ensure a turkey success:

Not sure how big a bird to cook? A general rule of thumb is to allow one pound of uncooked turkey per person from an 8 to 12 pound turkey. Larger birds have a larger proportion of meat to bones, so three quarters of a pound per person should serve well when purchasing heavier birds.

Like all protein foods, should be thawed in the refrigerator, never at room temperature. When foods are thawed at room temperature, surface bacteria can rapidly multiply to dangerous levels at temperatures of 40 degrees F and above. The National Turkey Federation offers the following guidelines to properly defrosting frozen turkeys: For safety and superior quality, leave turkey in the original packaging and place in a shallow pan. Thaw in the refrigerator, using the simple formula: whole turkeys thaw at a rate of 4 to 5 pounds per 24 hours. Example: A 15-pound fro-

zen bird will take 3 to 4 full days to thaw in the refrigerator. To speed thawing, keep turkey in the original tightly sealed bag and place in a clean and sanitized sink or pan. Submerge in cold water and change the cold water every 30 minutes. The turkey will take about 30 minutes per pound to thaw. Refrigerate (at 40 degrees F or below) or cook the turkey when it is thawed. Do not refreeze uncooked, defrosted turkey.

Stuffing is a delicious requisite for most Thanksgiving meals, but it's important not to stuff a turkey until just before it is placed in the oven for roasting. If preparing the stuffing ahead-of-time, wet and dry ingredients should be refrigerated separately and combined right before stuffing the turkey. The turkey should be stuffed loosely, with about three quarters of a cup of stuffing per pound of turkey. It's also important to test the internal temperature of the stuffing as well as the turkey. The internal temperature in the center of the stuffing should register 160 to 165 degrees F.

Many a Thanksgiving meal has been delayed due to underestimating the time it takes to cook a turkey. Since turkey is low in fat and high in protein, the meat is sensitive to extreme heat and prolonged cooking. Loosely place an aluminum foil tent over the turkey breast during the first 1 to 1½ hours of roasting, then remove to allow the turkey to brown. A turkey should be cooked just until it is done. The best way to determine the level of doneness is with a food thermometer. Even if you subscribe to the "20 minute per pound rule" you should also use a thermometer to ensure the bird is fully cooked. For whole turkey, place the food thermometer in the deepest part of the thigh, but not touching the bone. The internal temperature of the turkey should measure 180 degrees F in the thigh and 170 degrees F in the breast. Juices should run clear and the drumsticks should be soft and move easily at the joint.

Turkey Tips

*Brine is a popular prep to ensure juice meat and crisp skin, but it can be a hassle. Try this super easy method that makes brining a breeze.

Note: Add some herbs and spices, it also infuses the turkey with additional flavor.

Choose a bucket or container large enough to cover the bird with brine. To each gallon of fresh, cool water, add one cup of Kosher salt and one half cup of white or brown sugar. Pour the mixture over the turkey and refrigerate for at least 12 hours. If you want to flavor your turkey, add spices such as black peppercorns, dried thyme, garlic cloves or bay leaves to the brine.

When the brining process is complete, rinse the bird well and pat dry. If you want a crispy skin, allow the turkey to air dry overnight in the refrigerator. Stuff and roast the turkey as usual.

Another secret to delicious turkey is a simple spice rub, which adds not only incredible flavor to the bird, but a rich color as well.

Note: If using dried spices, half the amount required.

Mix together in a small bowl, three tablespoons each: chopped fresh rosemary, chopped fresh thyme, and chopped fresh tarragon; one tablespoon ground black pepper; two teaspoons salt.

Pat turkey dry with paper towels and place on rack set in a roasting pan. Tie legs together loosely to hold shape of turkey. Brush turkey with a little olive oil. Rub herb mix all over turkey. Roast as usual.

Did you know?

*The average price of a whole turkey is expected to increase by just 8% in 2024, jumping from \$27.9 in 2023 to \$30.15

*Half of all whole turkeys sold in the United States are consumed on Thanksgiving

*A frozen turkey keeps up to a year; but usually loses some flavor, according to the folks at Butterball.

*Even a "pre basted bird" can benefit from hand basting. Basting gives your bird color,

crisps the skin and helps hold in juices. Rub the bird with a few tablespoons of softened butter and pour two cups of turkey broth, chicken broth or water into your roasting pan. Baste every half hour or so. And be sure to baste quickly, because the oven temperature will reduce every time you open the oven door.

*Some seasoned chef's recommend rubbing the inside of the turkey with a cut lemon before stuffing.

*A turkey will carve more easily if you let it sit for 20 minutes to allow juices to set.

*According to the Center of Science in the

Public Interest (CSPI), the Thanksgiving turkey can be safely eaten for just four days after cooking.

**

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them

(although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Holiday cacti add weeks of color and enjoyment



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

Add weeks of colorful flowers and decades of enjoyment to your indoor plant collection with holiday cacti. Dress



Melinda Myers

one up with a decorative basket, container, or foil wrap and give it to a favorite gardener or holiday hostess. You'll find a variety for sale at your local garden center or florist.

The plant sold as a Christmas cactus may in fact be a Thanksgiving cactus. The true Christmas cactus blooms later and has small segments with rounded edges. The Thanksgiving cactus, though often sold as the Christmas cactus, has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms earlier. To add to the confusion, there are hybrids of the two that bloom in between these.

Fortunately, their growing requirements and care are essentially the same so the plants will do fine no matter the name on the label. Keep your flowering holiday cactus in a cool bright location to extend its bloom time for as long as four to eight weeks. Avoid hot and cold air drafts, moisture stress, and other environmental changes to reduce the risk of bud and flower drop.

These holiday cacti are epiphytes that naturally grow on trees in the rainforests of Brazil. They all prefer bright indirect light, high humidity, and thorough watering when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Don't overwater, but don't let the soil dry completely. Water a bit more often when the plant is in bloom.

Grow them in an organic well-drained potting mix for best results. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. Reduce maintenance and improve the growing conditions with the help of gravel trays. Place a layer of pebbles, decorative stones, or marbles in the saucer or bottom of the foil wrap or basket. The pot will be elevated above any excess water collecting in the pebbles. As this water evaporates it increases the humidity around the plant.

Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering houseplant fertilizer once it finishes blooming and throughout spring and summer as needed. Grow your cactus

The Thanksgiving cactus has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms earlier than the Christmas cactus.

in a north-facing window or back from an east- or west-facing window where it receives bright indirect light throughout the year. Too much sun turns the leaf segments dark red.

Don't be anxious to move these plants to a bigger container. They prefer to be somewhat pot-bound and can remain in the same pot for years.

Encourage a new flush of flowers with cooler night temperatures around 55 to 60 degrees and slightly drier soil. An uninterrupted dark period will also help promote flowering.

Next fall, start the dark treatment in early October to get holiday flowers. Cover the plants or move them to a location free of artificial light, indoors or outside, each night for 14 hours and provide bright, indirect sunlight each day. Any interruption in the dark period from outdoor, street, or reading lights can delay or prevent flowering.

Make this the year you add holiday cacti to your indoor plant collection and consider purchasing a few for friends and family. These easy-care flowering beauties will brighten indoor holiday décor and everyone's mood.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Dream of holidays

As the holiday season heats up and the smell of roasted turkey and pumpkin pie fills the air, it's easy to get caught up in the magic of the season—and just as easy to let your dreams slip into the background.

Between family gatherings, festive celebrations, and endless to-do lists, the holidays can feel like both a time of joy and a reminder of what you haven't yet achieved. But what if this season could be the spark to reignite your fire for your dreams?

The holidays are distracting. There's shopping to do, meals to prepare, and social media posts showing everyone else's highlight reels. That can leave you comparing your progress to others and wondering if you've fallen behind. But here's the thing—the holidays aren't about competing; they're about connection, reflection, and renewal. And that goes for your dreams, too.

Think about the power of this time of year. Latch onto the holiday spirit, express gratitude, reflect on where you've been, and just as importantly, set your sights on where you're headed.

What about that book you're writing, the weight you're losing, or the business you started that hasn't quite taken off yet? Now is not the time to hold back. Wake up a little earlier, stay up a little later—don't let your dreams take a holiday break only to resurface as New Year's resolutions. Keep the fire burning!

Let the warmth of the season fuel your ambitions. Let the love and laughter of family remind you why you're chasing your dreams in the first place. Let the joy of giving inspire you to give your all in pursuit of your goals.

Even history's greatest dreamers didn't take the holidays off when their vision was on the line. In the winter of 1879, Thomas Edison worked tirelessly at his lab in Menlo Park, perfecting the electric light bulb. His assistants reported working through snowstorms and late into the night by lamplight. The breakthrough came on New Year's Eve when his bulb successfully burned for over 13 hours, proving it was commercially viable.

Edison later said, "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." His dedication reminds us that even in

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

the season of comfort, a little extra effort can lead to monumental breakthroughs.

Of course, no one wants to become a workaholic. Ebenezer Scrooge learned the hard way that all work and no play leads to misery, though his ghostly intervention came at Christmastime. Thanksgiving reminds us of balance. Gratitude is as much about appreciating where you are as it is about striving for more.

Here are a few ways to stay motivated while savoring the season:

1. Reflect: Take a moment to look back—not to beat yourself up, but to celebrate the progress you've made. Even small steps matter.

2. Write down your dreams: Grab a notebook and jot down your biggest aspirations. Putting them on paper makes them more real.

3. Visualize success: As you sip on cider or watch the leaves fall, close your eyes and imagine achieving your goals. What does it look like? How will it feel?

4. Share your passion: Talk about your dreams with family and friends who support you. Their encouragement can spark new ideas or give you a much-needed boost.

5. Set a small goal before the New Year: Don't wait for January 1 to start fresh. Take one small, actionable step toward your goal now.

The holidays are the perfect reminder that life combines work and play, effort and joy, dreaming and doing. As you prepare your Thanksgiving plans—whether it's organizing a menu, tidying up the house, or coordinating with loved ones—take a moment to prepare for your goals.

Just like a well-thought-out meal comes together with care and attention, your dreams need thoughtful planning and action to thrive. Let the spirit of the season inspire you to dream bigger and work harder.

Gratitude and ambition go hand in hand. Some might argue that being happy with what you have might stifle your drive to achieve more. But think of an athlete who cherishes every victory while relentlessly training for the next one.

Here's to chasing your dreams as fiercely as you chase seconds on pumpkin pie!

Auction news



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

There's been lots of auction news since my last update.

Beginning with an item from the 16th century, a pair of Ming Dynasty jars sold well above their estimate at auction recently.

The "fish jars" were made during the reign of the Jiajing Emperor, from 1522-1566," according to CNN. They were made with advancements in ceramics design and depict golden carps along with lotus and other plants. The jars were in a home in Wiesbaden, Germany, but were moved after the start of World War II and placed in a secure location. The jars far exceeded the £1 million (\$1.3 million USD) estimate selling for £9.6 million (\$12.5 million USD).

Some rare presidential memorabilia including artifacts from two of America's greatest presidents will hit the auction block later this month. A lock of George Washington's hair inside a locket is one of the pieces being offered. The locket was given to a family friend of Washington's and was documented as it passed down through the generations. It's estimated to sell for \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Another important artifact was recently discovered in a Florida museum, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The museum manager found an old dusty shadowbox containing an American flag. The flag is dated April 14, 1865, the day after Abraham Lincoln's assassination. It was draped over Lincoln's coffin as his body traveled 1,654 miles to be buried in Springfield, Ohio. The flag was signed by New York physician Lewis Applegate, who went to school with one of the pallbearers. It's believed Applegate's school friend gave the flag to him. After Applegate signed the border, other owners followed suit which provided a documentation of ownership over the years. It has an auction estimate of \$800,000 to \$1.2 million.

Moving to an item from more recent times, a collection of "Star Trek" mem-



orabilia from the popular 1960s television show had many items selling past their estimates and even saw an auction record broken. A vintage red velour duty uniform worn by Nichelle Nichols when she played Nyota Uhura had an estimate of \$3,000 and sold for \$114,300, according to mylanews.com. Captain Kirk's yellow velour tunic and Starfleet Command Bridge trousers worn by actor William Shatner in the first season sold for \$455,000, well above the \$65,000 estimate. A communicator and phaser used by William Shatner as Captain Kirk were considered "lost." The original owner "was a veteran of Hollywood's prop industry," according to ArtNet. Don Hillenbrand, a long-time collector and researcher compared the items to those that appear in early episodes and to a documentary book on the series. The effort paid off when the phaser, estimated at \$100,000, boldly went where no man has gone before, setting an auction record for a "Star Trek" prop at \$910,000.

We are currently cataloging for an online antiques auction in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: WayneTuiskula@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

News from Beginning Bridges

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 Beginning Bridges CFCE's vision is that children, youth and families reach their full potential now and in the future. Our mission is to work with families and community partners to create the conditions for children, youth and families to thrive socially, academically and

economically. Funding for the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant (CFCE) is provided by the Massachusetts Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) and sponsored by South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC-Childcare/Head Start). Beginning Bridges CFCE has funding for the towns of Mendon, Northbridge, Upton & Uxbridge. Currently, our FREE comprehensive services

include weekly indoor and outdoor parent/child playgroups. We also offer parent education programs, the Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire and can connect families to community resources. Upcoming Events- Registration is required for all upcoming events. Links can be accessed on our website or contact Emily Murray at 508-278-5110 or Emurray@smoc.org.

Please check our website and Facebook page for our latest Newsletter.
 Monday 12/2/24 - Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins 9:30 - 10:30 Upton Town Library, 9 Milford Street, Upton. Register on the Upton Town Library website.
 Wednesday 12/11/24 - Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins 10:30 - 11:00 Whitinsville Social Library, 17 Church Street, Whitinsville. Register

online at the Whitinsville Social Library Website.
 Wednesday 12/18/24 - Coffee and Conversations 9:15 am - 10:15 am, Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave, Mendon. Join us for an informal playtime where families will be able to build social connections, learn about early childhood development and family friendly resources. Taft will supply Muffin House Muffins! Please stay for the 10:30 am Puppet

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Calling all actors back to the stage!

WHITINSVILLE — ValleyCAST, the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services, will be hosting their One Act Play Festival in March 2025. The festival promises a supportive and inclusive environment where participants can express themselves and connect with fellow theater enthusiasts. Whether you are an experienced actor or a newcomer to the stage, ValleyCAST welcomes and encourages you to register for the One Act Play Festival. Applications for the One Act Play Festival close on Friday, February 14, 2025. All abilities are welcome and there is no submission fee to participate.

Performances will be held on March 28 & 29 at 7 p.m. in the Singh Performance Center, 60 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, with the potential to have an additional performance



Courtesy

“The Howl and the Pussycat” performed by the Whitinsville Christian School Drama Club.

date on March 30 at 2 p.m., depending on submissions. Original works, published one act plays, scene work, or monologues can be performed during the festival. After each 10-to-30-minute performance the judges will provide instructive feedback with three awards to be presented after the final performance

of the festival. Awards will be presented for best original act, best ensemble, and best in show.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to perform in a welcoming community space” says Mary Laliberte, Open Sky Community Services Assistant Director of

Community Outreach. “Bringing back the One Act Play Festival is a great way to support local talent and creativity. We look forward to welcoming experienced actors and newcomers to the stage for this fun and entertaining festival.”

For more information and/or to submit a One Act, visit: www.openskys.org/valleycast or contact Mary Laliberte

at: mary.laliberte@openskys.org | 508-234-6232

ValleyCAST’s mission is to foster a creative and engaged community in the Historic Blackstone Valley that is inclusive and supportive of all people with and without disabilities. As the arts and culture arm of Open Sky, ValleyCAST curates events that bring people of all ages, abilities, and walks of life together.

Open Sky supports individuals facing complex challenges in Central Mass to achieve their definition of wellness and pursue the opportunities and relationships that are meaningful to them. We help them see beyond what they thought was possible to find their open sky.

To learn more about ValleyCAST and Open Sky, visit: www.openskys.org.

Pleasant St. Church offers women’s Bible study on “The Gift of Christmas”

WHITINSVILLE — Coffee Break, a community Bible study for women, will begin its Winter season with a study of The Gift of Christmas on Jan. 7. God loves us and has wonderful plans for our lives – no matter what the current events look like. Come

join with others in a study of The Gift of Christmas as we look at who God is and the power and glory He is about to display in the earth. Our God is so trustworthy. All peace and joy are found in Him. You’re only allowed to be a newcomer the first week.

After that, we’re all friends. We look forward to meeting you.

Refreshments and childcare are provided—There’s loving care for your babies and toddlers through age five.

Coffee Break is held each Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and offers women in the Blackstone Valley an opportunity to read and discuss the Bible, share questions and concerns, and develop

new friendships. There’s no “homework” required, and no previous Bible knowledge is necessary. Study guides and Bibles are provided free of charge.

Pleasant St. Church is located at 25 Cross St. in Whitinsville. For directions, questions, or to get more information, please call Anna at 774-287-9449, email churchoffice@psrc.org or visit psrc.org/adults.

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Courtesy

Pictured is Samantha Cesario, Youth Services Supervisor with the Milford Town library, and Michael Shain, the founder and president of Thanks To Yanks, recently the library sponsored a card writing campaign to thank local veterans for their service. Pictured is a sampling of the cards created by local children. Thanks to Yanks is charity, that has as one of its core missions to always remember that freedom is not free and that a simple thank you to veterans goes a long way. For more information on Thanks To Yanks, like them on Facebook.

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